

Information for the new Leadline Division at Autumn Olive Farm  
(With further explanation of other Eq Divisions)

Leadline Eq division (led at the walk only) is a prerequisite to our Eq Preview division (walk, 2pt walk, sitting trot - with helper) that moves up to Pre-Short/Pre-Long Stirrup Eq (walk, 2pt walk, sitting trot, posting trot, 2pt trot), then Short Stirrup Eq/Long Stirrup Eq (WTC, 18" jumps), then Upper Eq (WTC, 2ft jumps) and move up to Brave Eq (WTC, 2'6" jumps).

Riders can move up into higher divisions but cannot move back. Professionals cannot enter any of the eq divisions.

A rider can do the 1<sup>st</sup> class only of any division, or the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> classes only. They cannot do the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> class only or the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> classes only. They must do the 1<sup>st</sup> class in order to do the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> classes in order to do the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Informal attire is always allowed in Leadline Eq and Eq Preview only. Proper helmet and heeled shoes required, polo or collared/buttoned shirt, any long pants. Informal attire may be allowed for all riders in a show when temperatures are 80 or above, or by discretion of show management.

These divisions will be judged 100% on equitation. Rider errors causing horse faults will be considered (break in gaits, knocked down jumps caused by rider error, lack of control causing excess speed, etc.)

AOF Leadline Eq is not a cutesy division or beauty contest. It will not be judged on biggest smile, best groomed mount or fanciest tack and attire. It will be judged on the performance of the rider - best they can do for their age and size, which will be taken into consideration. A 2yr old might not be able to do what a 7yr old can, but a 7yr old should be able to do what a 2yr old can. Classes get more difficult as they go along.

A person will be in the ring during the Leadline Eq, Eq Preview and Pre-Short Eq and Pre-Long Eq. This person will assist in the classes with verbal/physical directions and to fix poles that are moved. They are not there to instruct riders.

Leadline Eq (7 & under): Helper (leader) allowed.

First class: Use barn end of ring. Horses will be led at a walk by a helper in a large circle around the judge both ways. Riders turning the horse on their own will be noticed.

Second class: Riders will go around the judge again as above. In the line-up, one at a time they will each be asked to perform one task or answer an easy horse question like their horse's color, part of horse or tack, etc, that the judge will know the correct answer. Or they may be asked to drop then pick up reins or drop and replace their foot or feet in the stirrups. Tasks/questions will be based on age/size of rider.

Third class: Riders will, one at a time, ride toward person. Judge will watch from the side. Rider will walk about 5-10 steps and halt a few seconds, then walk again another 5-10 steps and halt. After second halt helper can lead rider to person and stay in that place to create another line-up. After all riders are back in line, the class will be placed. In this class, helpers will hold lead rope, but rider should be making horse walk and halt alone (helper can assist if safety is an issue). Helper should not block judge's view of rider.

If riders cannot do all three classes, they can just do the 1<sup>st</sup> class (easiest) or 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> classes (second class is a bit harder), then if able to ride 'kinda' alone, they can perform the 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

We are hoping that maybe riders can start doing the 1<sup>st</sup> class and eventually become able to do all three classes.

Eq Preview (all ages): Helper (not leader) allowed.

First class: On rail: Walk, halt, back - both ways - may back individually on rail if large class.

Second class: On rail: Walk, 2pt walk - both ways. After second direction riders will halt. Person will approach each rider. Their helper will stand in place. Rider will walk a few steps to person and halt. They will be asked to make a small circle to their right then halt facing person, then do it the other direction. Like a figure 8. Circle should be very small, not a spin on the haunches or forehand, but a small circle. Not a big circle as if walking around a barrel. After rider makes second circle, helper can walk up and stand with them. After all riders have done their circles, they line up.

Third class: Line up far side of judge head to tail. One at a time rider will halt at 'bush' (there may be a marker, but most riders know where to start). One at a time they will do the pattern. Each following rider will move up to starting point after rider before them moves out of the way. Rider walks past the jump, then goes into a brief sitting trot - at least 5-10 steps. Can ride the rail, but most riders just cut across. At the green jump they come back to a walk (if on rail, come back to walk about 20 ft from poles). Rider then walks over the two ground poles in a 2pt. After last step over pole, rider sits and halts straight for a few seconds without passing the next jump. Then they line up.

Helper goes beside or in front of rider. They should not touch horse but can assist if needed or if safety is an issue. Helper should not block judge's view of rider. Helper walks beside the poles, not over them for rider to follow. Helper should not talk to and coach the rider the entire time, although words are okay if needed.

#### Pre-Short Eq (12 & under) and Pre-Long Eq (13 and older):

First class: Walk, 2pt walk, sitting trot, halt, back - both ways - may back individually on rail if large class.

Second class: Walk, posting trot, 2pt trot - both ways.

Third class: Line up far side of judge head to tail. One at a time rider will halt at 'bush' (there may be a marker, but most riders know where to start). One at a time they will do the pattern. Each following rider will move up to starting point after rider before them moves out of the way. Rider walks past the jump, then goes into a posting trot. Can ride the rail, but most riders just cut across. Rider then trots over the two ground poles in a 2pt. After last step over pole, rider sits and halts straight for a few seconds without passing the next jump. Then they line up.

#### Short Stirrup Eq (13 & under) and Long Stirrup Eq 14 & older:

First class: Walk and posting trot. May be asked to do a sitting trot or 2pt trot - both ways.

Second class: Walk/posting trot/canter. May be asked to do a sitting trot or 2pt trot - both ways.

Third class: Counterclockwise over four jumps (18" straight rails). May be trotted or cantered.

#### Upper Eq (all ages):

First class: Walk and posting trot. May be asked to do a sitting trot or 2pt trot - both ways.

Second class: Walk/posting trot/canter. May be asked to do a sitting trot or 2pt trot - both ways.

Third class: Counterclockwise over four jumps (2ft). May be trotted or cantered.

#### Brave Eq (all ages):

First class: Walk and posting trot. May be asked to do a sitting trot or 2pt trot - both ways.

Second class: Walk/posting trot/canter. May be asked to do a sitting trot or 2pt - trot both ways.

Third class: Counterclockwise over four jumps (2'6"). May be trotted or cantered.